

**Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program  
Advisory Committee Meeting Notes  
Thursday, June 7, 2018 @ 1 p.m.  
Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program – Salmon, Idaho**

**Present:** Tom Ford (USFS), Ken Miner (Lemhi County Commissioner), Bruce Mulkey (Lemhi Rancher), V. Don Olson (Lemhi Rancher), Harley Wallis (Pahsimeroi Rancher), Linda Price (BLM), Mark Olson (NRCS), Paddy Murphy (IDFG), Daniel Bertram (USBWP), Abbie Gongloff (USBWP), Mike Edmondson (OSC), Windy Schoby (IDFG), Justin Petty (sub for Mark Davidson), Seth McFarland, Cindy Salo, Mike Kossler (LSWCD, sub for Rusty Hamilton), Chris Gaughan (USBWP)

On Conference Call: Hannah Dondy-Kaplan (BPA), Jenny Lord (BPA)

### **Welcome and Introductions**

**December 7, 2017 Meeting Notes:** Mulkey made a motion to approve. V. Olson seconded. All in favor.

### **Presentations:**

- Grazing Study (McFarland) – A monitoring study was initiated when a BPA funded fence was installed on McFarland property, with riparian grazing permitted behind a cattle exclusion fence. The 20 year study is meant to examine the effects of a planned grazing regime on stream banks and vegetation with focus on steelhead habitat. The grazing plan allowed for ~50 head of cattle for 10 to 14 days during late October to early November once a year, for approximately 16.1 AUMs. The hypothesis is that late fall grazing will maintain or improve long-term riparian health. The BLM's Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) protocol is being used to measure greenline species composition, woody species regeneration, and stream-bank stability. MIM baseline data was collected in 2012 and 2015. Data collection will continue for the years of 2020 and 2026.

Long-term trend monitoring takes place every year and measures greenline composition and woody regeneration. The goal is to have moderate use or less of willow, alder, birch, dogwood, aspen, and cottonwood. Trend monitoring data has indicated no significant changes to streambank stability, greenline composition, woody plant height, or woody species age classes. Significant changes have been detected in streambank cover, which have gone from 61% to 78%.

Three 16 ft by 16 ft semi-permanent exclosures were established in representative foraging areas to serve as qualitative comparisons of species composition for grazed vs. ungrazed areas.

Photo monitoring shows a succession of Carex and Juncus replacing red top along the MIM transect, and tree and shrub growth. Photo monitoring of the exclosures show weed growth inside.

Advisory committee members expressed support for continuation of the study. Ford said the study had a lot of value as far as the USFS was concerned. Kossler also voiced opinion that the LSWCD saw value in the study. BPA may not continue to fund it in the next cycle, so other funds may be necessary.

- Middle Eighteenmile Creek Habitat Improvement Project, Breshears (Gongloff) – Eighteenmile Creek, a Lemhi river headwater, is listed by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality as impaired for both sediment and temperature. Water temperatures continue to warm after the upper springs, to the intercept of Eighteenmile and Hawley creeks as the stream goes through a long, vegetation-free stretch. Currently the landowner has to pond water at his pivot location in order to get submergence on his pump, creating a fish barrier and warming the water. The pivot encroaches

on BLM and its wheels go through the creek six times during rotation, causing regular sediment input. Cattle have direct access to the creek. The project will install a new, smaller pivot to eliminate BLM encroachment and allow space for 0.4 mile of stream re-location. Stream restoration will include meanders, a narrower channel, large wood, pools, and riparian plantings, as well as a cattle exclusion fence. A fish screen will be installed with a new headgate to eliminate the need to pond water, and a new generator will power the pivot. The project is proposed for 2019 implementation.

### **Old Business**

- Upper Salmon Diversion and Screening BiOps (Ford) – NEPA is being completed on the last diversions. USFS expects a decision in the fall.
- Forest Plan Revision (Bertram) - Comment period is open until 6/20/18 for comments related to species being included in the plan. OSC is assembling comments from state agencies and will submit them as a unit.

### **New Business**

- Barracks Lane Flooding (Bertram) - The Lemhi River experienced a higher flow event of about 2,000 cfs. Flooding around Barracks Lane was erroneously thought to have been caused by an IDFG fish habitat project. Bertram showed drone footage of trees that had fallen into the river, raising the water level and activating channels that were under construction and had been blocked off from the river. These channels served to disseminate some of the extra water. Flooding waters continued downstream to a private road that had been acting as a levy and washed out last year. This area was the low point where the water left the river channel and continued across Barracks Lane and Geertson Creek Road, and beyond. Jeff DiLuccia, IDFG, asked his contractor on a nearby project to cofferdam the area, which was enough to keep the water in-channel. DiLuccia is working with the landowner of the washed out road to allow floodplain access on a project which is in conceptual design. Implementation of that project should prevent future errant flooding.

**Tech Team Update** (Schoby) – Tech Team was held yesterday. All projects from the Upper Salmon that requested PCSRF funds received the full amount. BPA held a training for the new HIP IV, an updated version of BPA’s ESA Section 7 programmatic. A flushing flow was determined not to be necessary this year due to the late snowmelt and amount of precipitation. All Team Team subcommittees have met to prioritize next year’s projects with the funding available. The IRA is progressing and soliciting for Tech Team feedback. The IRA team presented data on tagged fish.

Edmondson reviewed the presentation given by Mike Ackerman with the Advisory Committee. The study found that of the 66 tagged fish, 58% of Chinook emigrate in the fall. Fish were tracked using a fixed site telemetry receiver and radio tags. PIT tags can be monitored through the life of a fish, but radio tag batteries will only last 48 days (constant) to 86 days (on every other week). Radio tags were inserted into pre-smolts during a two minute surgery, with no mortalities. The detection rate was not as high as anticipated, partially due to the light-activated tags activating under the halogen lamp during a 24 hr hold after the tag surgery. Of the 66 tagged fish, 50 arrived at Morgan Bar, and 31 (48%) made it to Corn Creek. Four fish made it to Vinegar Creek. The largest drops in transition were noted from the Lemhi Hole to Morgan Bar, and then from North Fork to Deadwater. Travel time/speed decreased throughout the season. An R Shiny App was developed to allow users to see the progression of tagged fish.

Cost for 130 tags was \$36k. \$91k was spent last year. PIT tags are a very small cost component of the project at cents per piece. There is five years of funding from USBR for this study. Next year they will do a pilot study in the Pahsimeroi.

## USBWP Project Updates –

- Upper Pratt Creek Access and Flow Enhancement Project (Bertram) – The contractor is wrapping things up.
- Eighteenmile Beyeler (Bertram) – Completed apart from the stock water which will be getting done soon.
- Pratt Creek Channel Restoration, Bridge, and Hedt Irrigation (Gongloff) - This project will re-channel Pratt Creek more in its historic location. Project will be implemented in late summer-fall 2018. H&N Construction got the bid.
- Rattlesnake Culverts to Bridge (Gongloff) – This project is in development.
- Little Sawmill Creek Restoration (Gongloff) – Restoration component will be completed this fall. Irrigation component will be completed this fall or early spring.
- Beaver Mimicry (Bertram) – IDFG e-fished Hawley Creek and when they got to the BDA's there a noticeable jump in number of fish, from 50 before the BDA's to 275. Fish id'd included brook, rainbow, cutthroat, and westslope, in different size classes.

## Advisory Committee Membership Update

- **Bureau of Land Management (Price)** – Since the change in USA administration, BLM has received direction to streamline their EIS' to under 100 pages and to complete them within a year. Environmental Assessments must have less than 50 pages and be completed in four months. BLM is moving a lot of the data usually present in the documents to an admin file to meet the new requirements. Permit renewals are included. BLM's request for more categorical exclusions for restoration has made it to the next level of bureaucracy. The local office recently hosted the top ten Idaho BLM folks to highlight the importance of the partnerships BLM has with other local entities. The tour and discussion was very well received.
- **Governor's Office of Species Conservation (Edmondson)** – Idaho received \$4.5 million in funds for fish recovery projects, which is \$300k greater than last year. The total amount distributed was \$65 million. Edmondson is visiting congressionals in D.C. next week in an effort to increase the overall funds. He will present goals and specific #'s as they relate to the Colombia Basin Partnership to the Advisory Committee at the next meeting. Brad Little has been elected as the Republican candidate to run for Governor Otter's seat.
- **Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Murphy)** – The IDFG licensing system was down temporarily but is now back up. A Chinook season has been set from Challis Bridge to the Sawtooth Weir. Wild fish #'s are too low to fish in the Pahsimeroi. IDFG screen crews are coming on. Some screens overtopped this year, but not too many.
- **Landowner – East Fork (Baker)** – Not present.
- **Landowners – Lemhi (V. Olson/Mulkey)** – Mulkey stated that there was flooding across the Lemhi Back Road this year on Pratt and also flooded his field. He has never seen that much water come down Pratt. A cottonwood remaining from the Sandy Creek bridge project fell in. His screen overtopped.
- **Landowner – Main Salmon (Hoffman)** – Not present.
- **Landowner – Pahsimeroi (Wallis)** – Requested to know how many smolts make it to the ocean and return to natal ground. Edmondson answered that less than 1/10 of 1% return, and that the goal is to get between 4-6% returning.
- **Lemhi SWCD (Kossler)** – LSWCD is providing comments to the forest revision plan, and met with Ray Henderson. Kossler has really noticed an uptick in projects being completed in the recent years compared to eight years ago. LSWCD is holding a tour of Hawley Creek projects on 6/13.

- **Lemhi County Commissioner** (Miner) – County is fixing roads and reviewing the forest revision plan. The comment period is over in mid-July. Miner expressed concern that 708 miles of designated waterways would have a big impact. Kenney and Hayden are the only two tribes listed in the Lemhi. The number of miles can get reduced with the input of public comments. The eligibility and recommendation is being completed at the same time.
- **Non-agency fish and wildlife interest** (Petty) – No update.
- **NRCS** (M. Olson) – The final sign up for SGI was in May. They are finishing their EQIP contracts, and will announce the fall EQIP round in the paper. Olson will start a new job in Pocatello in July. Rosana Rieth will temporarily fill his position, which will be announced in August.
- **Recreation interest** (Bertram) – Kristin Troy will be replaced as the representative for recreation.
- **UI Cooperative Extension – Salmon** (Williams) – Not present.
- **U.S. Forest Service** (Ford) – USFS has not received an edict on the NEPA. They are working on the forest revision. Jim Tucker retired from Timber and Veg. Timber has been added to Ford’s work load.

**Vacant Positions**

Shoshone – Bannock Tribe  
Custer County Commissioner

**Public Comment**

- None.

**Adjourn**

*The next Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2018.*

**Commonly used Acronyms:**

25/35	Minimum flows required at L-6
ACEP	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
AEM	Action Effectiveness Monitoring
AFS	American Fisheries Society
ANS	Aquatic Nuisance Species
AREMP	Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program
BA	Biological Assessment
BACI	Before, After, Control, Impact (study design type)
BEF	Bonneville Environmental Foundation
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMS	Beaver Mimicry Structure
BO/BiOp	Biological Opinion
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration

CHaMP	Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program
CMZ	Channel Migration Zone
CREP	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
CRSO	Columbia River System Operations
CSWCD	Custer Soil and Water Conservation District
CWT	Coded Wire Tags
DEQ	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
DPS	Distinct Population Segment
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ELJ	Engineered Log Jam
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESU	Evolutionarily Significant Unit
FCRPS	Federal Columbia River Power System
FIA	Forest Inventory and Analysis program (USFS)
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
Four "H"s	The four factors affecting salmon recovery: Hatchery, Hydro, Habitat, Harvest
GIS	Geographic Information System
GM	Geometric Mean
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
HGMP	Hatchery Genetic Management Plan
HPA	Hydraulic Project Approval
HSRG	Hatchery Scientific Review Group
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources
IMW	Intensively Monitored Watershed
IS	Implementation Schedule
ISEMP	Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Project
ISRP	Independent Scientific Review Panel
IT	Implementation Team
L-x	L- "fill in the blank" refers to any Lemhi River Diversion e.g. L-63
IWRB	Idaho Water Resource Board
LRBM	Lemhi River Basin Model (Mike Basin Model for the Lemhi)
LRLT	Lemhi Regional Land Trust
LSWCD	Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District
LW/LWD	Large Wood/Large Woody Debris
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPG	Major Population Group
NFF	National Forest Foundation
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NPCC	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
OSC	Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation
P-x	P- "fill in the blank" refers to any Pahsimeroi River Diversion e.g. P-16
PCSRF	Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund
PHABSIM	Physical Habitat Simulation
PIBO	PACFISH/INFISH* Biological Opinion
PIT Tag	Passive Integrated Transponder Tag
PNAMP	Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership
QAQC	Quality Assurance, Quality Control
QRF	Quantile Regression Forests
RA	Reach Assessment
RFP	Request for Proposals
RM	River Mile
RM&E	Research, Monitoring and Evaluation
RPA	Reasonable and Prudent Alternative(s)
S-x	S- "fill in the blank" refers to any Salmon River Diversion e.g. S-22
SBT	Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
SNRA	Sawtooth National Recreation Area
SOW	Statement of Work
STEM Database	Status, Trend and Effectiveness Monitoring database at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center
TA	Tributary Assessment
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TRM&E	Tributary Research, Monitoring and Evaluation
TRT	Technical Recovery Team (NOAA)
TT	USBWP Technical Team
TU	Trout Unlimited
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USBR	Bureau of Reclamation
USBWP	Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	US Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	US Geological Survey
VSP	Viable Salmonid Population
WAC	USBWP Advisory Committee
WAG	DEQ Watershed Advisory Group
WRP	Wetland Reserve Program
*PACFISH/ INFISH	The PACFISH/INFISH Biological Opinion (PIBO) Effectiveness Monitoring Program was initiated in 1998 to provide a consistent framework for monitoring aquatic and riparian resources on most Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands within the Upper Columbia River Basin.